

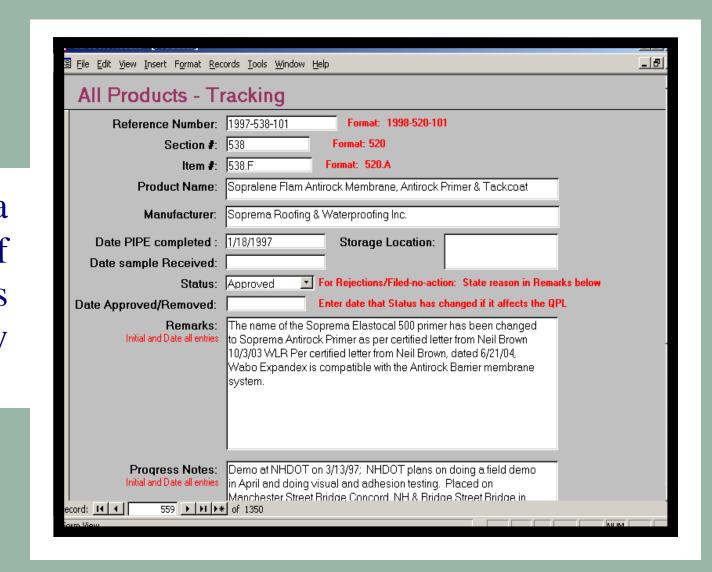
NHDOT Product Evaluation Process

Partners: YOU!

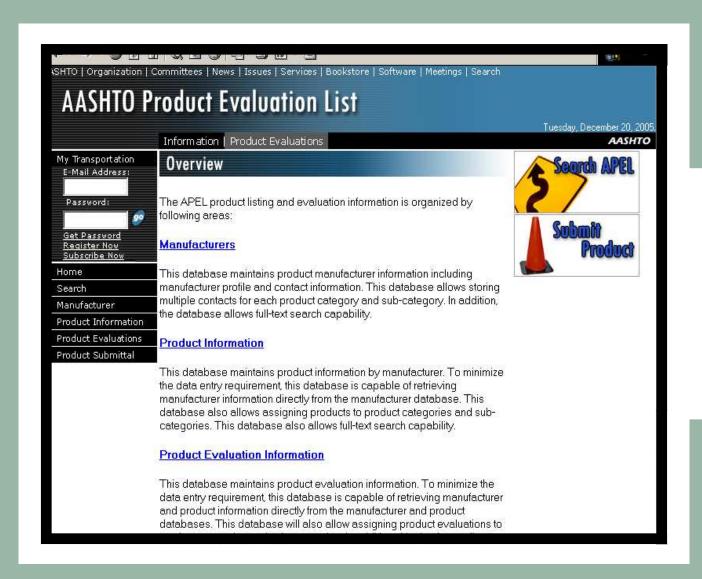
Background: Have you ever bought a product that didn't perform as the label claimed it would? Not all products are created equal and for that reason, the NHDOT evaluates products to assure that they will perform as intended. The Qualified Products List (QPL) is a listing of products that have been evaluated and qualified for use on road and bridge construction projects in New Hampshire. These products have been evaluated against established qualification criteria intended to verify that the product will meet specified performance levels. Product types listed on the QPL are generally "off the shelf" products that have been manufactured through a quality control process and are sold in pre-packaged units. Most products appearing on the QPL are then accepted in the field based on the manufacturer's Certificate of Compliance with no additional testing.



Qualified Products List Database The Research Section maintains a database of submitted and evaluated products. The database provides a means of tracking product evaluations and documenting the results. When a product is submitted, the QPL database is searched to determine if the product has already been evaluated by NHDOT.



Lab Testing Cementitious products such as mortars, grouts and concrete patching materials are tested to determine their resistance to repeated freeze/thaw



Product Research Other States are often queried as to their experience with a submitted product. Of particular value is the experience of neighboring States who share the same climatic conditions as NH. The AASHTO Product Evaluation List (APEL) is a website that provides a means for member States to share basic information on product evaluations.

Field Trial A field trial is often part of a product evaluation, allowing for an assessment of constructability and long-term performance. Here an asphaltic plug joint is installed.



NTPEP AASHTO's "National Transportation Product Evaluation Program" pools the professional and physical resources of member departments to test transportation materials of common interest. Individual member department's can then apply their qualification criteria to the test results to determine product acceptability. Some of the product types currently tested by NTPEP include:

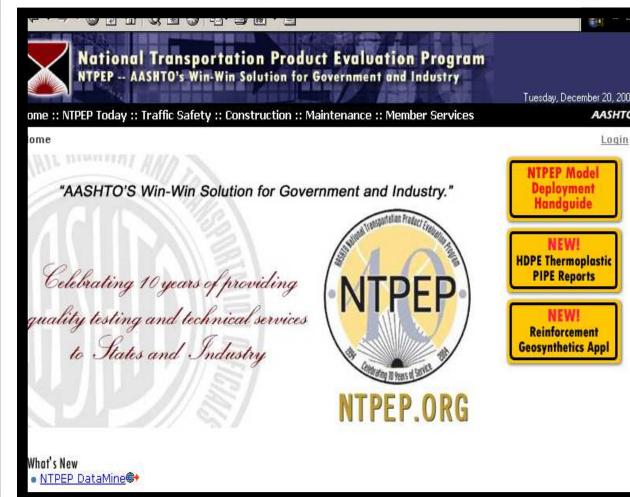
PCC Joint Sealants

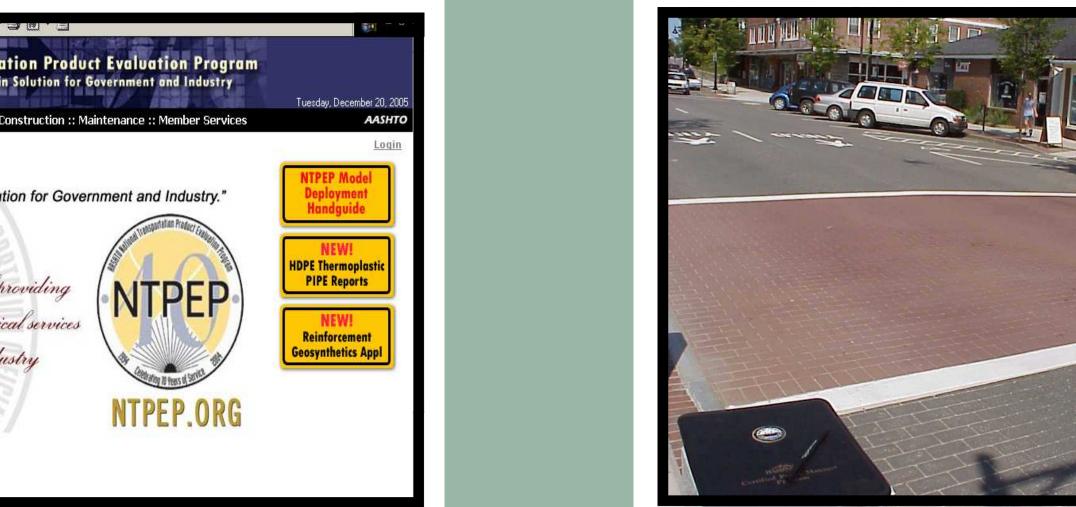
HMA Crack Fillers

and more!

Rapid Set Concrete Patch

- Changeable Message Signs & Arrow
- Pavement Marking Materials
- Sign Sheeting
- Concrete Curing Compound





A field trial can also be a useful tool when evaluating new products for which the desired characteristics have not yet been defined. Shown here is a trial installation of "Street Print", a pavement imprinting and coating product.

Benefits The QPL, and the product database that it is derived from, provide a central location where the Department's experience with products is documented. By using the QPL to track this information in a central location, we can:

- Avoid duplication of effort in having a product evaluated more than once.
- Avoid using a product that has been found to be inadequate.
- Provide a resource for sharing product information.

For the Department to realize these benefits, manufacturers and salesmen should be directed to submit their products to the Research office using the form located on the Qualified Products webpage. This dissuades those who prefer a "backdoor" approach in hopes of finding a sympathetic ear, and is especially important in identifying products that have already been rejected. You can help make the QPL a more effective tool by reporting any product deficiencies to the Research Section.



For more information:

Contact the NHDOT Research Section (603) 271-3151 or visit www.nh.gov/dot/research